

A Summary of Rabies in Massachusetts, January to March 2008

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

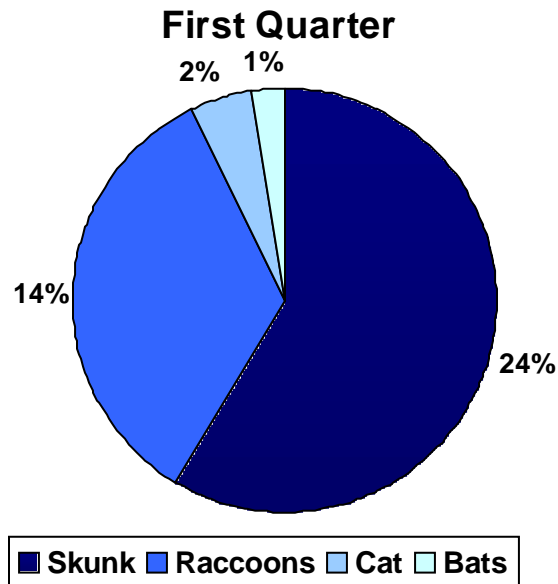
The following report summarizes data collected on animal specimens sent to the State Laboratory Institute for rabies testing from January to March 2008. Cumulative reports summarizing rabies testing from 1992-2002 and annual reports from 2003 to 2007 are available on the MDPH website at www.state.ma.us/dph/cdc/epii/rabies/rabies.htm.

Submissions and Positive Results by Species

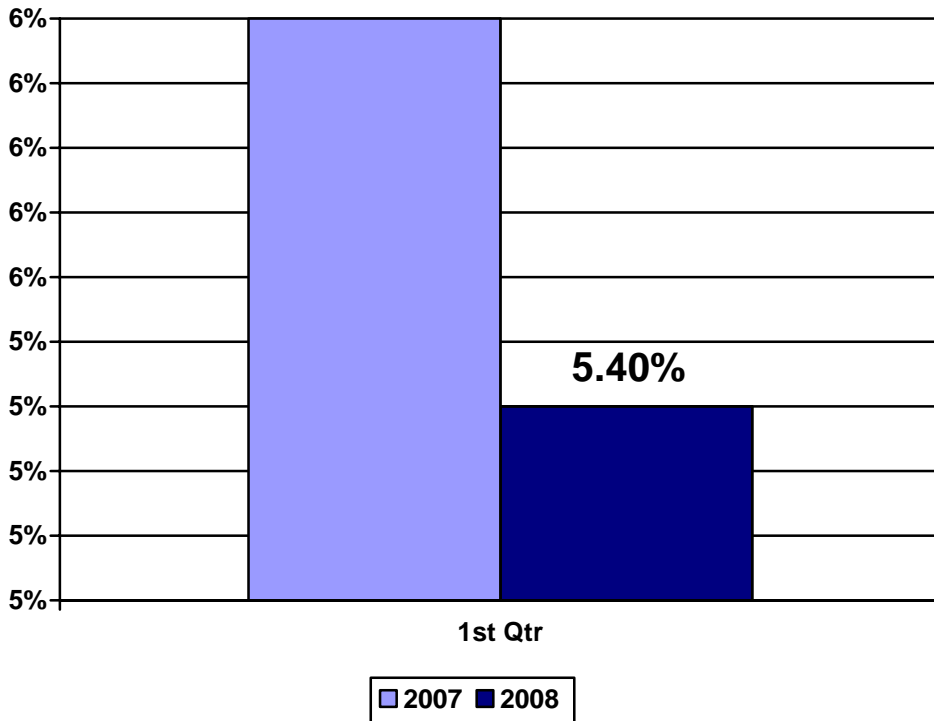
Table 1

Animal	Number Positive/Submitted (%) 1st Quarter	Number Positive/Submitted (%) 2nd Quarter	Number Positive/Submitted (%) 3rd Quarter	Number Positive/Submitted (%) 4th Quarter
Raccoon	15/107 (14%)			
Skunk	8/33 (24%)			
Bat	1/56 (2%)			
Cat	2/167 (1%)			
Coyote	0/3			
Dog	0/73			
Other	0/44			
TOTAL	26/483 (5.4%)			

Proportion of Total Rabies Positives by Animal Species, by Quarter



Proportion of Total Positives by Quarters, by Years
6%



Cumulative Submissions and Positive Results by Month

Due to the seasonal nature of wild animal activity, changes in animal submission numbers fluctuate fairly predictably throughout the first three months of 2008 when compared to 2007.

Table 2

Month	Number Submitted, 2008	Number Positive, 2008	Number Submitted, 2007	Number Positive, 2007
January	161	6 (4%)	144	6 (4%)
February	132	6 (5%)	144	6 (4%)
March	190	14 (7%)	169	14 (8%)
Total	483	26 (5.4)	457	26

Submissions and Positive Results by County

Between January and March 2008, 13 out of 14 counties in Massachusetts submitted animals for rabies testing. The highest number of submissions came from Barnstable County, while Franklin and Plymouth counties had the highest proportion of positive animals.

Table 4 Rabies Data by County				
County	Number of Positive/Submitted Animals (%) 1st Quarter	Number of Positive/Submitted Animals (%) 2nd Quarter	Number of Positive/Submitted Animals (%) 3rd Quarter	Number of Positive/Submitted Animals (%) 4th Quarter
Barnstable	2/116 (1.70%)			
Berkshire	1/8 (12.5%)			
Bristol	0/29 (--)			
Dukes	0/1 (--)			
Essex	0/43 (--)			
Franklin	1/6 (16.7%)			
Hampden	2/25 (8.00%)			
Hampshire	0/9 (--)			
Middlesex	3/81 (3.00%)			
Nantucket	0/0 (--)			
Norfolk	4/39 (10.3%)			
Plymouth	5/35 (14.3%)			
Suffolk	1/26 (3.90%)			
Worcester	7/59 (11.9%)			

Number Positive Animals by County, First Quarter 2008

